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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment

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Note by the Secretary-General**

1. In its decision 2001/PC/3, the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development approved a multi-stakeholder dialogue segment as part of the programme of work of its second session. In the same decision, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided that:

> "Based on the practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a number of multi-stakeholder dialogue segments will be organized as part of the preparatory committee meetings. Dialogue starter papers from major groups will be requested in the form of reviews of progress and future action necessary under the relevant major group chapters of Agenda 21. The planned multi-stakeholder dialogues include:
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> "... (b) In the early part of the fourth meeting of the preparatory committee, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives from all nine major groups will be organized. The focus of this dialogue will be aligned with the issues that are on the agenda of this meeting, that is, need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirming the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of Agenda 21 and addressing the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard. The purpose of this second dialogue will be to provide opportunities to representatives of major groups to contribute their views on future actions and priorities. The outcome of this dialogue will be a Chair's summary, which will be submitted to the preparatory committee and incorporated into its records."

2. The Summit secretariat has been working with a steering group composed of organizing partners from each major group sector to prepare for the multi-stakeholder dialogue segments, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. The organizing partners are drawn from major group networks on the basis of their expertise and contributions to sustainable development, their capacity to effectively reach out to their major group

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** The document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

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community for consultations and the credibility they command in their communities. The list of organizing partners include the following (relevant major group chapters of Agenda 21 are indicated in parentheses):

- Women's Environment and Development Organization (chap. 24, "Women");
- Youth Coalition for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (chap. 25, "Children and youth");
- Commission on Sustainable Development Indigenous Peoples' Caucus (chap. 26, "Indigenous people");
- Third World Network, Environment Liaison Centre International and Danish 92 Group (chap. 27, "Non-governmental organizations");
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (chap. 28, "Local authorities");
- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Trade Union Advisory Council to OECD (chap. 29, "Workers and trade unions");
- International Chamber of Commerce and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (chap. 30, "Business and industry");
- International Council for Science and World Federation of Engineering Organizations (chap. 31, "Scientific and technological communities");
- International Federation of Agricultural Producers and Via Campesina (chap. 32, "Farmers").

3. The organizing partners were requested to carry out two main tasks in consultation with their major group community: (a) facilitate the drafting of a dialogue paper, and (b) facilitate the identification of their major group's delegates to each of the dialogue segments. In identifying delegates, the organizing partners were requested to aim for geographical and gender balance, and to attempt to achieve a generational balance by including different age groups in their delegations as far as possible.

4. The dialogue papers prepared by each major group for the multi-stakeholders dialogue segment are before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee as addenda 1 through 9 to the present note. As required by decision 2001/PC/3, papers are topically aligned with the agenda of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, and primarily focus on the partnerships, commitments and future sustainable development priorities of major groups.

5. The multi-stakeholder dialogue segment is scheduled to be held from 27 to 29 May, as follows:

- 27 May — Plenary meeting in the afternoon, focusing on sustainable development governance
- 28 May — All-day meeting of two parallel discussion groups;

  Discussion Group I: Capacity-building for Sustainable Development

  Discussion Group II: Framework for partnerships
- 29 May — Plenary meeting in the morning, focusing on future priorities and commitments

6. By decision of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, the two plenary dialogue sessions will be moderated by the Chair of the Bureau, while the discussions group will be co-moderated by Vice-Chairs assigned to that task.